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1. A method for placing a group order, mediated by a system having one or more computers, the method comprising the steps of:

publishing, by a publisher, information about a quantity of a material;

subscribing, via a subscriber, to a topic comprising said information;

receiving, via a subscriber, said information;

g aggregating, via a subscriber, said information from at least one of said publishers; and

responsive to said step of aggregating, selecting based on at least one criterion a best time to place said group order.

- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said criterion comprises at least one of a time criterion, a price criterion, a quantity criterion and an urgency criterion.
- quantity criterion and an urgency criterion.

  3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said order is an order for a bulk good.
- 1 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information 2 comprises information about a remaining quantity of a material.
- 1 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said order 2 comprises an order in partial satisfaction of said criterion in 3 said information of said at least one publisher.

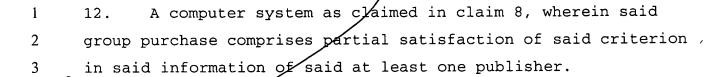
- A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of 1 2 said publishers comprises an automatic monitoring system.
- A computer program product tangibly stored on a computer 1 7.
- readable medium and comprising computer program instructions to, 2
- when loaded into a computer and executed thereon, perform the 3
- steps of the method as claimed in claim 1. 4
- A computer system for placing a group order, the computer 1 8. 2 system comprising:
- means for publishing, by a publisher, information about a 3 4 quantity of a material;
  - means for subscribing, via a subscriber, to a topic comprising said information;
  - means for receiving, via a subscriber, said information; means for aggregating, via a subscriber, said information from at least one of said publishers; and
  - means for selecting based on at least one criterion, a best time to place said group order.
- 1 1= A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said 9. 2 criterion comprises at least one of a time criterion, a price criterion, a quantity criterion and an urgency criterion.
- 1 A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said 10. 2 order is an order for a bulk good.
- A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said 1 11.
- 2 information comprises information about a remaining quantity of
- 3 a material.

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13. A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of said publishers comprises an automatic monitoring system.